

Youth Resource Connections

Published bi-weekly by the

*U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Youth Services, Office of Youth Opportunities,
200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20210 (202) 693-3035,
http://www.doleta.gov/youth_services/*

Volume 2, Number 27

September 20, 2002

Youth Headlines

Cabinet Agencies Rewrite Rules for Funding Faith-Based Groups. Five Cabinet agencies are in the process of writing rules into federal laws to help churches and other faith-based groups qualify for federal social service funding. The Department of Health and Human Services (<http://www.hhs.gov/>), for example, hopes to make it possible for churches, synagogues, and mosques to use federal money for a variety of programs. According to Robert Polito, director of the HHS Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, religious groups that receive aid from the department would be allowed to use the money for items like computers or vehicles. "We wouldn't be called the faith-based office if we weren't trying to see how we can partner with the faith community."

Similarly, officials at the Department of Housing and Urban Development (<http://www.hud.gov/>) are set to rewrite eight grant programs that currently restrict funding for faith-based groups that consider an applicant's religion in their hiring decisions. "That creates an impediment to faith-based organizations that's unnecessary," said Steven Wagner, director of HUD's faith-based office. Initiatives to make it easier for faith-based groups to receive funding are also moving forward at the Departments of Education, Justice, and Labor.

Program Spotlight

Project Paycheck Laramie County Youth Services Council. Project Paycheck, an initiative of the Laramie Youth Services Council's At-Risk Services Committee was developed as a way to pool resources and expertise to help rural youth, primarily those out-of-school between the ages of 14 and 25. The Council includes representatives from businesses, the Chamber of Commerce, schools, faith-based organizations and the military, and private and public organizations serving youth.

The initiative includes three programs: the Fleming Young Parent Program, serving pregnant and parenting teens; LINK, a drop-in center serving teens by providing a variety of scheduled programs and services; and Project Paycheck, serving non-parenting youth. Youth attend GED classes in September and again in January. LINK offers additional group meetings and training opportunities year-round. Youth involvement is encouraged at the beginning of each class. The project also provides career awareness, planning and readiness training, peer support, and extended follow-up through linkages with Job Corps, Laramie Community College, and the military.

Project Paycheck has demonstrated success through strong collaborative relationships that led to positive results between January 2000 and April 2002 which include:

- 248 youth participated in the initiative;
- 95 percent increased their academic skills;
- 70 percent earned a GED; and
- 80 percent were employed and 80 percent had earnings gains.

For more information, contact: Dave Griffin, Manager, Cheyenne Employment Center, at 307-777-3722.

Funding Opportunities

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announces the availability of \$30 million to make easier for faith- and community-based organizations to complete for federal grants and other funding. HHS's new Compassion Capital Fund represents the first appropriated federal funds specifically targeted to assist grassroots organizations since the White House announced its faith-based and community initiative last year. Under the Fund's demonstration program, nearly \$25 million will be made available to fifteen to twenty-five intermediary organizations that provide technical assistance to help faith-based and community organizations access funding sources, operate and manage their programs, develop and train staff, expand the reach of programs into the community, and replicate promising programs. For more information, visit: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2002pres/20020605a.html>.

Publications/Reports/Resources

Summer 2002 Employment Situation Among America's Teens: The Worst Job Market for Teens in 37 Years (August 2002). Prepared by the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University, the National League of Cities' Institute for Youth, and the Institute on Youth, Education and Families, this study found that the 2002 summer's teen employment rate hit a 37-year low. The study found that less than 40 percent (38.9 percent) of youth, ages 16 to 19, held a job during June and July of 2002, the lowest percentage since 1965. The Center cites several factors that may have contributed to the low rate in teen summer employment. These include: the weakened labor market in the United States, job competition from recent college graduates and older unemployed adults, and a rising number of teens. To download this report, visit: http://www.nyec.org/Summer_2002_YouthEmployment.pdf.

September 11: Perspectives from the Field of Philanthropy (September 11, 2002) offers personal insights from philanthropic leaders into the aftermath of last year's terrorist attacks. To download copies of this publication, visit the Foundation Center's Web site on <http://www.fdncenter.org>.

Assessing the Post-9/11 Funding Environment: Grantmakers' Perspectives (September 11, 2002) examines the impact of foundations' and corporations' response to 9/11 on their overall giving. The report also evaluates the relative impact of the 9/11 response versus the stock market decline and 2001 recession on giving patterns and practices. This report is based on a nationwide survey of more than 300 foundations and corporate funders conducted recently by the Foundation Center's research staff. To download copies of this publication, visit the Foundation Center's Web site on <http://www.fdncenter.org>.

What You Need to Know About Drug Testing in Schools. Released by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), this publication is designed to assist educators, parents and community leaders in determining whether student drug testing is appropriate for their schools. In June of this year, the Supreme Court ruled to allow drug testing for students who participate in competitive extracurricular activities or teams. To download this publication, visit: http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/pdf/drug_testing.pdf.

Websites

"Tech Career Compass" website gains popularity among individuals, employers and training providers who want to explore the industry's defined specifications for over 100

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job areas in the information technology field. The website is organized in six job categories covering major functional areas such as Customer Service, Database and Security. Within these categories are links to job title, descriptions and detailed listings of tasks, skills and knowledge for a particular job. Individuals can also link to training sources, industry certifications and resources for various occupations. Future enhancements to the website will build upon apprenticeship components to assist businesses in developing a comprehensive training document to register with the Department of Labor as a registered apprenticeship sponsor. Explore the website on <http://tcc.comptia.org>.

The Employer Assistance Referral Network (EARN) is a nationwide cost-free referral and technical assistance service for employers. EARN connects employers who have job vacancies to employment service providers who have direct access to job ready individuals with disabilities. EARN also provides technical assistance to assist employers in locating appropriate organizations and information as they seek to hire qualified candidates with disabilities. Explore the website on <http://www.earnworks.com/>.

WWW.CAREERONESTOP.ORG. The CareerOneStop portal serves as a single point of entry through which customers -- employers, job seekers, learners, and workforce professionals -- can access national electronic tools formerly known as America's Career Kit. The CareerOneStop's three components are:

America's Job Bank (AJB) -- www.ajb.org
America's Career InfoNet (ACINet) -- www.acinet.org
America's Service Locator (ASL) -- www.servicelocator.org

By organizing the content by customer group and topical area, users can easily locate information and services. The portal also offers a new "State Gateway" which links users to the extensive resources of our state partners.

Upcoming Events

American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF), the National Youth Employment Coalition (NYEC), and the U.S. Department of Labor are planning a series of WIA Learning Exchanges for Youth Systems across the country.

WIA Learning Exchanges for Youth Systems are two-and-a-half-day regional meetings designed to highlight promising practices at exemplary WIA sites, foster peer-to-peer information sharing, and develop team-driven action plans in three areas:

- Recruiting and retaining out-of-school youth;
- Building and sustaining partnerships, especially with the education community;
- Defining and aligning assessments, skill achievement and credentials.

Since the intent of the Learning Exchange is to lay the groundwork for applying the practices you observe back in your local area, local areas should apply as a team. Local teams should be comprised of:

- The executive director of the local workforce investment board,
- A youth council member (preferably the council chair with dual membership on the local workforce board or a youth), and
- The local board staff assigned to the youth council or programs.

(Other team compositions may be considered.)

The WIA Learning Exchange for Youth Services for DOL Region 1 local areas is scheduled to take place on November 13-15 in New Haven, Connecticut. This peer-to-peer meeting is open to local areas in DOL Region 1 - Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont, and the Virgin Islands. **Application deadline: October 4.** To apply online, visit: <http://dtiassociates.com/WIAExchangeCT/faqs.cfm>. For more information about the WIA Learning Exchanges for Youth Services, contact Tracy Schmidt of the American Youth Policy Forum at 202-775-9731.

Register for the ETA Region V - Youth Development Conference to be held on October 16-18, at Hyatt Regency in Chicago, IL. This conference is designed to meet the needs of officials, program operators, managers and staff who are transforming youth programs and services under the WIA. Conference workshop topics reflect the preference of local Youth Councils and youth program operators in all 10 states and will feature three themes: Program Design, Leveraging Resources, and Youth Involvement. To register for or become an exhibitor for the conference, visit: www.doleta.gov/regions/reg05 or contact Beth Bienvenu at 202-408-8282, bienvub@tatc.com.

The Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT)'s Women, Youth and Families Task Force is sponsoring a Women's Treatment Institute on Sunday, October 27, from 1 to 5:30 PM at the Hotel Nikko in San Francisco, CA. The theme of the conference is, "Women Coming Home: Addressing Addiction Treatment and Recovery Issues of Criminal Justice Involved Women and their Families." The half-day conference will convene nationally recognized experts in the area of women's treatment and criminal justice to discuss treatment related issues of incarcerated women and their families as they return to their communities. Pre-conference registration is \$35.00. For more information and registration materials, please contact Sondra Peeden at (718) 858-0066 or email: sondrapeeden@riverasierra.com. To register online, visit: <http://www.powerofrecovery.com>. **Registration deadline: October 6.**

2002 Annual Conference of the National Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Parenting and Prevention, Inc. (NOAPPP) will be held on November 20-23 in San Diego, CA. Planned and presented in collaboration with the California Alliance Concerned with School Age Parenting and Pregnancy Prevention (CAC SAP), the theme of the conference is "Communities Connecting for Youth: Research, Trends and Innovations in Adolescent Pregnancy, Parenting and Prevention." The conference will be held at the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center in San Diego. For more information and to register online, visit: <http://www.noappp.org/services/Conference/conference.htm>. **Registration deadline: October 20.**

The Workforce Alliance's 2002 National Conference: Advocating for Training Under the Reauthorizations will be held on December 10-11 in Washington, D.C. Organized by the Workforce Alliance (TWA), a diverse coalition of leaders from the field of workforce development, this conference will focus on issues related to the reauthorization of the WIA, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and higher education policies (including Pell and Perkins). For more information about the Alliance and the conference, visit: http://www.workforcealliance.org/network/December_2002_Conference/Conference_homepage.shtm.

Calendar of Events

September 23-26. Peer-to-Peer - YO! in the Recording Studio, Memphis, TN. For more information, visit http://www.doleta.gov/youth_services/peertopeer_register.asp. *For Youth Opportunity Grantees Only.*

October 8 – 11. Peer-to-Peer - Case Management/ISS Workshop, Seattle, WA. For more information, visit http://www.doleta.gov/youth_services/peertopeer_register.asp. *For Youth Opportunity Grantees Only.*

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- October 15 - 18. Peer-to-Peer - Case Management/ISS Workshop**, Brockton, MA. For more information, visit http://www.doleta.gov/youth_services/peertopeer_register.asp. *For Youth Opportunity Grantees Only.*
- October 15-17. DOL Region 3 - Southeast Regional Youth Summit**, Charlotte, NC. For more information, visit www.schoolandmain.org or call Gene Caso at 404-562-2382 #129.
- October 16-18. DOL Region 5 Youth Development Conference**, Chicago, IL. For more information, contact Heriberto Garcia (312-353-1322) at hgarcia@doleta.gov or visit: http://www.doleta.gov/regions/reg05/Pages/r5eta_Index.cfm.
- October 27. CSAT's Women's Treatment Institute**, San Francisco, CA. For more information, contact Sondra Peeden at 718-858-0066 or visit: <http://www.powerofrecovery.com>.
- October 28-30. Youth Opportunity Grant Directors' Meeting**, Los Angeles, California. For more information, contact Hugh Davies at 202-693-3627.
- November 5 – 7. Peer-to-Peer - Healthy Emotional and Psychological Development of Our Youth**, Denver, CO. For more information, contact Christina Lo (202) 693-3599 or email: clo@doleta.gov. *For Youth Opportunity Grantees Only.*
- November 5 – 7. Peer-to-Peer - Community Service Learning**, Milwaukee, WI. For more information, contact Anne Stom, (202) 693-3377 or email: astom@doleta.gov. *For Youth Opportunity Grantees Only.*
- November 13-15. DOL Region 1 - WIA Learning Exchange for Youth Services**, New Haven, Connecticut. *For Local Workforce Investment Boards and Youth Councils in DOL Region 1.* For more information, contact Tracy Schmidt at 202-775-9731 or visit: <http://ditassociates.com/WIAExchangeCT/faqs.cfm>.
- November 20-23. 2002 Annual Conference of the National Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Parenting and Prevention**, San Diego, CA. For more information, visit: <http://www.noapp.org/services/Conference/conference.htm>.
- December 10-11. Workforce Alliance's 2002 National Conference: Advocating for Training Under the Reauthorizations**, Washington, DC. For more information, visit http://www.workforcealliance.org/network/December_2002_Conference/Conference_homepage.shtm.
- January 17, 2003. Entries due for 2nd Annual Film Contest.** For more information, contact Anne Stom at astom@doleta.gov.
- April 27 – 29, 2003. Rural Conference 2003 – Bigger and Better!** For more information, contact Kris Latimer at 541-928-0241, ext. 219, e-mail: kris@tocowa.org, <http://www.tocowa.org>.

Youth Resource Connections is a technical assistance update published bi-weekly by the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL), Office of Youth Opportunities (OYO), Office of Youth Services (OYS).

Youth Resource Connections provides important announcements and information for state and local workforce investment boards, youth councils, youth service providers, Youth Opportunity Grant sites, partners, and others interested in youth development.

We welcome your input: Please let us know how these updates might be improved to better serve your needs. If you would like to contribute information, post an inquiry, or suggest topics to cover, please contact Anne Stom (astom@doleta.gov; 202-693-3377); DeEtta Roberson-Carter (Droberson-Carter@doleta.gov; 202- 693-3610) or Susan Rosenblum (srosenblum@doleta.gov; 202-693-3597).

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